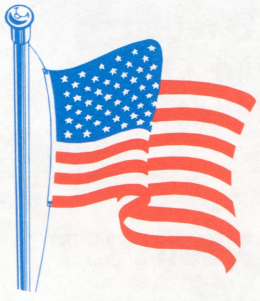
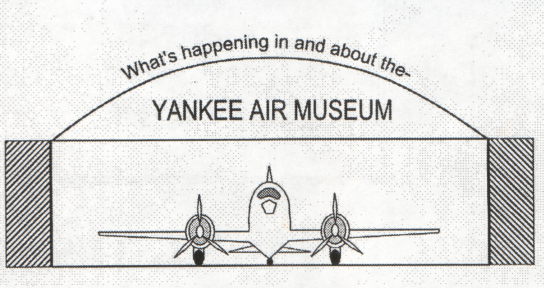
The Newsletter of the Yankee Air Force





Hangar Happenin's

United States Air Force Heritage Flight
F-86F Sabre *MiG Mad Marine* with East Coast Demo F-15C Eagle from Langley AFB
Sunday 6 July 2003 at our Grosse Ile Air Extravaganza Photo by YAF Member ***Craig Purdie*** #8096 WR

Connie's Corner	*by Connie Kosek*	Page 3
The Apple Accent	*by Darlene Imus*	Page 4
Autumn Airshow Schedule		Page 7
Mid-Michigan Division Re-Establishment Plan		Page 8
Last Chance! C-47 October Odyssey Trip		Page 10
The Room 216 Report	*by Jon Stevens*	Page 11

HAPPY 22ND ANNIVERSARY, YANKEE AIR FORCE !

Join us on the web: www.yankeeairmuseum.org

September 2003

Yankee Air Force, Inc.
d/b/a Yankee Air Museum
A Non-Profit Organization
501(c)(3)
2041 A Street - East Access
Willow Run Airport
Belleville MI 48111

Hangar Happenin's is a monthly newsletter of the Yankee Air Force.

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1919 - 2000

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Ted Drews
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Joe Leugers
Dan Tomczak
Deane Baker
Bill Colwell
Brian Higgins
Ray Hunter
Dick Stewart
Russ Welch

Ex Officio Non-Voting: Dennis Norton

MEETING SCHEDULE

1st Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
General Membership
All Members & Guests Welcome

2nd Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
Flyable Aircraft Meeting
Everyone Welcome

3rd Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
Board Meeting
All Members Welcome

4th Wednesday of Month - 6:00 PM
Long-Range Planning Meeting
Everyone Welcome

4th Saturday of Month - 10:30 AM
Staff Meeting
All Department Chairs & Managers

MUSEUM HOURS

10 AM - 4 PM TUESDAY - SATURDAY
12 NOON - 4 PM SUNDAY
CLOSED MONDAYS & HOLIDAYS

Phone: (734) 483 - 4030
Fax: (734) 483 - 5076

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Visitors to our Museum
during **July 2003** were from
37 of our United States,
Canada, Norway, Sweden
England, France, Belgium, Germany,
Australia and Japan

PAST DATES OF INTEREST

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

2 Sept 1916	First plane-to-plane radio transmission
2 Sept 1945	462 B-29s fly over battleship *Missouri* during Japan's ceremonial surrender
4 Sept 1922	Army Lt. James H. Doolittle makes first coast-to-coast crossing of the US in a single day from Florida to California in a de Havilland D.H.4B
7 Sept 1956	Man's first venture outside Earth's atmosphere: USAF Capt. Iven Kincheloe flies to 126,000 feet in the Bell X-2
8 Sept 1994	Last Allied soldiers leave Berlin, ending occupation that began in 1945
11 Sept 2001	4 hijacked airliners simultaneously used as weapons of mass destruction, now an annual day of remembrance: Patriot Day *US Flag to fly at half-mast*
17 Sept 1908	First fatal injury in an airplane crash: Lt. Thomas W. Selfridge
18 Sept 1947	The US Army Air Forces become the United States Air Force
19 Sept 1783	First time living creatures leave the ground in aircraft, a Montgolfier hot-air balloon: a sheep, a duck and a rooster
19 Sept	POW / MIA Remembrance Day *On this day, the third Friday in September, the POW / MIA Flag must be flown at all Federal buildings*
23 Sept 1911	First flight to carry U.S. Air Mail
24 Sept	Gold Star Mothers Day
30 Sept 1949	Berlin Airlift ends

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

There was no 50/50 drawing at our August meeting.

Our e-mail address is
hangarhapps@yankeeairmuseum.org

CONNIE'S CORNER

by Connie Kosek

CHUTE ! REMEMBER THAT ?

Many of our Yankee Air Force members and our website friends were born and raised in **Detroit, Michigan**. Many have moved to the suburbs and wide open spaces, but somehow we have all kept those wonderful memories. You can take some of us out of Detroit, but you can't take Detroit out of us!

You know you're an old Detroiter when:

You ran down Woodward Avenue to catch the *Bob-Lo Boat*. You took a "moonlight cruise" to Bob-Lo with Captain Bob-Lo, or went to *Edgewater* and *Eastwood Amusement Parks* and *Jefferson Beach*. You remember the big stove that was on Jefferson Avenue at the entrance to *Belle Isle* (and also at the Woodward entrance to the *State Fair Grounds*).

You shopped at *Hughes and Hatcher, B. Siegel, Peck and Peck, Himelhoch's, Robert Hall's, Crowley's, Shoppers Fair, E.J. Korvette's or Federal's.* You rode the elevator at *J. L. Hudson's*, run by an elevator operator.

You remember a *Winkelman's* and *Saunder's* store in your neighborhood.

You remember when the *Twin Pines Dairy* delivered milk and juice to your door or in the chute on the side of your house and *Milky the Clown* performed magic with the words "Twin Pines!" You remember the *Good Humor* man in a white uniform ringing the bells on his truck while driving down your street.

Your kids watched *Romper Room* on TV (Romper – Bomper – Stomper – Boo!) You remember the "Big Snow," *Buffalo Bob, Howdy Doody, Clarabell, Phineas T. Bluster, Princess Summer-Fall-Winter-Spring* and *Flub-A-Dub.* You remember *Soupy Sales, Johnny Ginger, Poopdeck Paul* and *Captain Jolly.* And don't forget *Marv Welch (WXIE)!*

Your mom watched the *Lady of Charm* cook on TV. You ate *Better Made* and *New Era* potato chips.

You remember *Olympia Stadium*, Sonja Henie and Bud Lynch. You remember when *Vernor's* was made on Woodward Avenue and a bearded troll was on the bottle. Your mom got groceries at *Great Scott's, Food Fair Wrigley's* or *Chatham's.* Your mom saved *Holden Red Stamps*, *S&H Green Stamps*, or *Gold Bell Gift Stamps*, and you licked the stamps and put them in those little books. *Kresge's* and *Woolworth's* were "dime stores." You had an uncle in the furniture business: *Joshua Doore.*

You saw the *Detroit Lions* play football in *Tiger Stadium* (and they WON a game or two!)

You remember Black Bart and the *Faygo* pop song. Or how about "Which way did he go? Which way did he go? He went for *Faygo* Old Fashioned Root Beer!"

You watched *Rita Bell's Prize Movie* in the mornings. You know who Sonny Elliott is! Do you remember him using chalk on a map of Michigan? You recognize Bill Kennedy, Jack LeGoff, Van Patrick, and Bill Bonds.

You remember Bobby Lane, Gates Brown, Nick Pietrosante, Charlie *"Paw Paw"* Maxwell, Able, Lindsay & Howe, Red Kelly, Alex Delvecchio and Al Kaline.

You visited the *Wonder Bread* bakery and got to take home a mini-loaf of bread. Your address had a two-digit "zone" before there were zip codes (Detroit 19, Michigan).

You remember "Get on the right track to 9 Mile and Mack, to get the best deal in town. Roy O'Brien...has the best deal around." Your house had a laundry chute, a milk chute and a coal chute. *Mills Bakery* delivered door-to-door. You remember going to *Detroit Edison* with you mom to exchange burned out light bulbs for new ones. A sub-station would repair small appliances and of course, everybody met under the *Kern's Clock* in Downtown Detroit.

THE APPLE ACCENT

by *Darlene Imus*
#7742 WR

It was a great pleasure and privilege to go on three air show trips this summer. As an educator, I enjoyed meeting and learning a lot by communicating with many people. Working with our B-17 and C-47 crews was also a very enjoyable experience!

The **MAPS Aero Expo in Akron, Ohio** in June was an AWESOME event! The MAPS staff was generous, kind, and supportive to all of us who flew down on the B-17 and C-47. I'd like to thank the people who worked on our retail, especially **Ted Drews, Jr.** who was my righthand man. Their tremendous energy helped in making it an OUTSTANDING air show. The B-17 crew worked hard on keeping the *Yankee Lady* flying. I also had the pleasure of meeting three WASPS: Dora Dougherty, Betty Turner, and Pat Stark. They were wonderful to talk with and I listened to their incredible stories. I enjoyed my trip to Akron and was grateful for the MAPS staff's hospitality.

Jamestown, New York was the home of Lucille Ball. A Yankee crew of nine flew there on the B-17 for the Chautauqua County Airport Air Show. Those in charge of the show took very good care of us. We were treated to a delicious dinner at the American Legion and also to a USO dinner/dance the next evening. In retail, I was appreciative of the many people who were busy selling all the items we brought along. Also, our B-17 crew was very successful with the FLEX rides (flight experiences). This was my first time at Jamestown, and I have very favorable memories of my trip there!

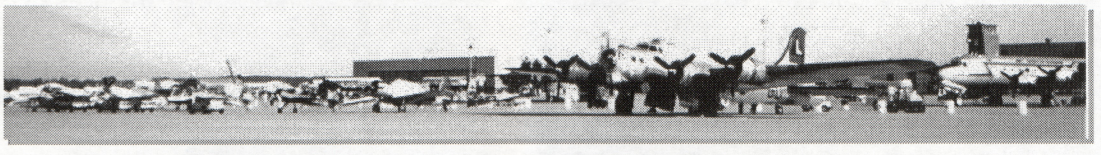
Flying on the *Yankee Lady* to **Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mt. Clemens, Michigan** was my last air show trip of the summer. I had not participated before at an air show on a military base. This was a different experience for me. It was amazing to see so many military personnel on one base. They were all very polite, cordial and helpful throughout the weekend.

Displayed for the public free of charge were a variety of aircraft from vintage models to the modern ones. The featured planes, besides our B-17 and C-47, were the *USAF Thunderbirds*. The Thunderbird pilots performed intricate maneuvers with their F-16s as close as 18 inches apart. They represented the skills and techniques of every U.S. Air Force pilot, providing a spectacular part of the air show.

Again, I was thankful for each and every Yankee member who helped in selling our retail.

Akron, Ohio

Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mt. Clemens, Michigan



I would like to share some of the UNIQUE questions we encountered on these trips!

Is a B-17 really here?

How did your B-17 get here?

How did your C-47 get here?

How did you get here?

The ride on the B-17 isn't $3.60?

Are you a pilot?

Where is Belleville?

Why can't we smoke near the planes?

Is the C-47 a DC-3?

How much is this item?

If you're a teacher, how can you be here?

Would you like a beer?

Of course, the one I asked the most:

Are we there yet?

Having participated in these air shows has reaffirmed my belief that Americans want to show their patriotism.

Air shows are a wonderful way for Americans to be able to share this patriotic spirit and learn more about our country, our geography, our history, and each other.

Thank you, Yankee Air Museum!

Jamestown, New York

YANKEE AIR FORCE

GOLF WAR

18 HOLE SCRAMBLE and FUNDRAISER

Have fun and raise money for
YANKEE AIR MUSEUM

PATRIOT DAY
SEPTEMBER 11 TH
SHOTGUN START: 10 AM

Pineview Golf Course
formerly McKinnon Airfield
(734) 481-0500
Stoney Creek Road at Textile
south of Ypsilanti
Take I-94 to Huron Street Exit 183 South

YOU NEEDN'T BE A GREAT GOLFER...
JUST PLANE CRAZY!

$40 for senior golfers age 60+
$50 entry fee per person covers

- 18 holes scramble (BEST BALL) golf with cart
- Entry into door prize drawings & hole events
- Lunch at the turn provided by
  FEIGLY BUICK OLDSMOBILE of Milford, Michigan

For more info: (734) 483-8661 or (734) 665-2178

Dear Museum Members and Staff,

As a member since 1982, who at one time almost lived out at the hangar, I eagerly look forward to Jon's column. Since I now live too far away to visit the Museum often and don't get to see my old friends as I used to, the *Hangar Happenin's* newsletter keeps me informed. Jon's column is very well written and informative. *NOTE: SEE PAGE 11 THIS MONTH*

We as a group have always been very hard on our officers and board members, very critical of everything they attempt. The phrase "We don't do it that way" has held back progress for years. I am happy to see some change in direction. I am most happy to read so many names of workers I don't know. I used to know everyone, but we are all getting older and need new blood and energy.

My thanks to all who are digging in and keeping things alive and well. To my friends, even the ones I don't know, thanks for keeping a dream alive. To my good friend Jon, keep up the good work!

Hope to be able to visit soon.

Love,
Barb Sutton
#385 WR

In Memory Of...

George W. Griffith
Life Member #304 WR
passed away
February 17, 2003

29 July 2003

Hi!

Just thought I would let you folks know that I thoroughly enjoy your newsletter, which I am getting after having gone for a ride in the B-17 *Yankee Lady* last month at the MAPS air show in Akron. My buddy and I were totally thrilled by that ride! Hardly a day goes by that we don't recall some aspect of that afternoon! And getting the newsletter really is a nice thing to help remember the efforts it takes to keep those planes and people flying, not to mention the good works you folks do in the community and the interest. Your newsletter is very well written and produced and I extend a very sincere "job well done" to the people who are putting it together! I know it's a lot of work, since I have done a couple of newsletters in the past, one of which was for the 14th Engineer Battalion while stationed at Fire Support Base Nancy in Vietnam (69-71) and later at Quang Tri Air Base with the same unit (that was "I Corp" by the way, about ten miles from the DMZ demilitarized zone from where we often stood around open-mouthed on trembling ground watching B-52s carpet bombing the Zone). Anyway, I just wanted to provide at least a little morale support for the hard work that all of you put into the Yankee Air Force. It IS appreciated, even if you don't hear it often enough! Proud to be associated!

Sincerely,
Gary F. Finn
#10545
Akron, Ohio

Trips planned for September and October in our classic gull-winged **STINSON V-77 *Reliant***

Saturday, September 6	**Troy-Oakland**
Depart Willow Run	8:00 AM
Return around	3:00 PM
Sunday, September 14	**Saginaw**
Depart Willow Run	7:00 AM
Return around	12:00 Noon
Sunday, September 28	**Port Huron**
Depart Willow Run	8:30 AM
Return around	2:00 PM
Sunday, October 12	**Grand Ledge**
Depart Willow Run	7:00 AM
Return around	12:00 Noon

For more information on flying with us, please contact: **Ray Hunter** (734) 668-6059 HuntersofA2@aol.com OR **Dan Tomczak** (734) 769-6866 dtomczak@provide.net

The purpose of our Stinson trips will be to sell Yankee Air Force Museum memberships. Occupants are expected to dress in appropriate identifiable outfits and to participate in promoting our Museum. There may be a modest charge to offset our aircraft operating expenses.

2003 YANKEE AIR FORCE AIRSHOW SCHEDULE

	Stnsn!		Sep 06	Troy/Oakland Airport (7D2) display	Troy, MI
B-17!			Sep 06-07	Aviation Day with Flair-Kent State	Stow, OH
B-17?			Sep 12-14	NAS Willow Grove Airshow	Willow Grov,PA
B-17!	B-25!		Sep 12-14	Indianapolis Airshow 2003 BA	Mt Comfort,IN
		C-47?	Sep 13-14	Lunken 75th Anniversary Air Show	Cincinnati, OH
	Stnsn!		Sep 14	Saginaw (HYX) display	Saginaw, MI
		C-47?	Sep 16	YAF member trip to USAF Museum	Dayton, OH
B-17!			Sep 19-20	Airport Open House/Display - FLEX	Sidney, OH
B-17!	B-25!	C-47!	Sep 21	YAF Founder's Day Open House	Willow Run, MI
B-17?			Sep 27	Airport Open House/Display - FLEX	Bad Axe, MI
	Stnsn!		Sep 28	Port Huron Airport (PHN) display	Port Huron, MI
		C-47?	Oct 06-10	YAF member trip to NC, GA, FL, LA	Wilmington, NC Savannah, GA Pensacola, FL New Orleans,LA
B-17?			Oct 12	Static Display - FLEX	Anderson, IN
	Stnsn!		Oct 12	Grand Ledge Airport (4DO) display	Grand Ledge,MI

! Definite **?** Tentative **FLEX** Flight Experiences **BA** US Navy Blue Angels

Mid-Michigan Division
Re-Establishment Plan

Background Information

Yankee Air Force, Inc. (YAF) divisions are established in accordance with the by-laws of the YAF. The YAF Board of Governors (Board) has the authority under the by-laws to charter, merge, suspend, or revoke a division's authority at any time, without the approval or ratification of the division, when it is in the best interest of the YAF to do so. According to the by-laws, a two-thirds vote is required to take such action.

The board is also required to promulgate and amend regulations governing a division's operation. These regulations were established as Section 2 of the YAF Policy Manual, and copies of these regulations were and are provided to all YAF divisions. Section 2 of this Policy Manual is in fact based on information that was written, and/or adopted earlier in the organization's history, by Mr. Ralph Gilpin, and others, when he was a member of the YAF Executive Committee and represented the YAF as its legal counsel.

The Board voted in 1999 to revoke the authority of the Mid-Michigan Division, by a unanimous (more than the required two-thirds) vote. After a lengthy court case, Lapeer County Circuit Court Judge Nick O. Holowka ordered in 2003 that the "Mid-Michigan division of the Yankee Air Force, Inc., is re-established as it existed on January 25, 1999, but is subject to a renewed motion to dissolve that division."

The YAF Board of Governors recognizes that there are members of YAF's Mid-Michigan Division who desire to be a part of a viable YAF Division in the Mid-Michigan area.

It should be pointed out that while there are sufficient guidelines in place to establish a YAF Division, there are no regulations and guidelines for re-establishment of a YAF Division whose authority has been revoked.

Therefore, it is proposed that the YAF Board approve this "Mid-Michigan YAF Division Re-Establishment Plan" whereby interested YAF members who are in good standing may re-establish the Mid-Michigan Division. This plan does not conflict with, nor is it more restrictive than the current by-laws or the current division regulations.

The Plan for Mid-Michigan YAF Division Re-Establishment

- Current YAF members in good standing who are interested in re-establishing the Mid-Michigan Division will submit the names of two or more candidates who are currently members of the YAF in good standing, to assume the temporary position of Mid-Michigan Re-Establishment Manager (MMRM).

The names of candidates for the position of MMRM must be submitted to the Board, no later than the next regularly scheduled Board meeting following approval of this plan. This deadline provides one month for the action to be completed.

- The YAF Board will select one of these candidates for the MMRM position no later than the second regularly scheduled YAF Board meeting following approval of this plan, or at any special earlier meeting of the Board called by the YAF President.

- The Mid-Michigan Re-Establishment Manager's tasks will be:
  - To provide the names of the at least 25 persons required to re-establish the Mid-Michigan Division;
  - To develop a slate of YAF member candidates for Division offices. The MMRM may be among these candidates;
  - To develop a written Division election plan, approved by the YAF Board, and to execute that plan;
  - To arrange for Division operating location and business operations, working with the YAF Treasurer and Corporate Secretary; and
  - To provide the valid business records required by those officers.

- These tasks are to be completed no later than two Board meetings following the MMRM selection. When a bank account is established by the MMRM, in accordance with YAF by-laws, the Board will enter into good faith negotiations in order to provide restoration funding to the Mid-Michigan Division. These funds may be used in relation to activities required to re-establish the Division.

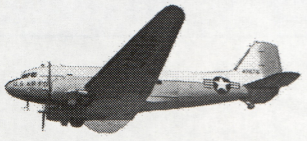
- The election and installation of elected officers must be completed no later than six months following the approval of this plan. Failure to meet the deadlines outlined in this plan or failure to secure sufficient YAF members to fill the required Division offices will be considered a default of the plan and the Mid-Michigan Division will not be re-established.

- Following successful installation of Division officers, the temporary position of MMRM will be dissolved. Good faith negotiations will be opened related to YAF assets and collection items to be loaned to the Division, and will follow the defined rules for such transactions established by Division Regulations and the Collection Committee. Relationships between the YAF National Headquarters and the re-established Mid-Michigan Division will continue from this point as with any other Division.

Join fellow YAF members for flights to exciting places in our C-47 !

In order to involve more members in our unique flying activities, we're offering monthly excursions in our C-47 to places of interest. This is done under a shared expense provision which the FAA allows for private aircraft owners such as Yankee Air Museum to charge for aircraft operations to cover expenses.

Listed below are dates, destinations and cost per person on remaining trips. Everyone flying with us must be a member of Yankee Air Force Museum.



LET'S GO FOR A RIDE !

DATE	DESTINATION		ROUND TRIP COST
Tuesday September 16	**Dayton, Ohio** USAF Museum, Wright-Patterson AFB		***SOLD OUT***
Mon-Fri October 6 -10	**Wilmington, North Carolina**	USS North Carolina Battleship	**$1,000**
	Savannah, Georgia	8th AF Museum	
	Pensacola, Florida	Naval Aviation Museum	Includes hotel (2 per room) and ground transportation.
	New Orleans, Louisiana	D-Day Museum	

There are **3** seats available for our October trip! Call **Randy Hotton (734) 697-4754**

- Your round trip cost covers air transportation.
- Admission to those museums that charge admission will be in addition to the listed round trip cost.
- Flights will normally leave at 8:00 AM from the Yankee Air Museum hangar and will return before dark.
- A minimum of 10 people will be needed for the trip to take place as scheduled.
- A maximum of 12 people can be accommodated on each trip.
- A position of ***trip coordinator*** has been created in order to facilitate a smooth operation.
- The *trip coordinator* will receive a 50% discount on the trip they choose to go on.
- The *trip coordinator* will be responsible for building passenger lists, taking care of passenger requests, and serving as the primary point of reference for their trip. If you are interested in becoming a *trip coordinator*, please indicate your desire below. *Trip coordinators* will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis.
- To reserve a place on one of these adventures, complete and mail the attached reservation form.
- Only checks or money orders will be accepted for payment.
- Full payment must be enclosed with your reservation form to reserve a seat on each desired trip.
- Seats will be filled on a first-come first-served basis. If demand is great enough, we may plan additional trips.

NAME _____ YAF MEMBER # _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

DATE _____ DESTINATION _____ HOW MANY SEATS? _____ X COST PER SEAT _____ = TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

WANT TO BE A TRIP COORDINATOR? YES _____ NO _____

Yankee Air Museum reserves the right to cancel any of these excursions at any time and refund the participant the full amount paid.
Refunds will not be granted except for trips cancelled by Yankee Air Museum.

MAIL TO:

YANKEE AIR MUSEUM
C-47 DAY TRIPS
PO BOX 590
BELLEVILLE
MI 48112-0590

The Room 216 Report

*by **Jon Stevens** L 4172 WR*

As the summer and airshow seasons draw to an end, I'd like to share some of the highlights we've had over the last few months.

For those of you who like to keep track of specific dates, I've got one for you—Saturday 26 July 2003. On that date, after a long and thorough restoration, our B-25D *Yankee Warrior* flew for the first time since 1998.

With Chief Pilot **Tony Hurst**, SIC **Dave Sunday**, Crew Chief **John Stahley**, and **Ken Chio** on board, the '25 took off from Willow Run runway 23L. After making a pass or two around the field, they took off for their first test flight.

Many times when a major undertaking or project is completed, part of the celebration includes a ceremonial burning of one or more items that were significant to that project. When the guys came back, John and Ken fulfilled a promised they'd made to a lot of us—they burned their B-25 hats!

A lot of people were involved in this project over the last five years, and they all deserve our thanks. I hope we get a list of their names and publish them here.

Speaking of people's involvement, I made a mistake in last month's column, which I'd like to correct here. I identified John Stahley as Aircraft Inspector, and Ken Chio as the Crew Chief. My apologies for not having the facts straight.

In actuality, John is the Crew Chief, and Ken (or so he claims) is "just another member of the crew" (but most of us know better)! The inspectors on all of the Willow Run-based aircraft are **Tom Collard** and **Chuck Goldstrom**.

Both this summer and last we hosted the Annual Summer Writers Camp, a joint program between Eastern Michigan University and the Ypsilanti Public Schools geared toward at-risk kids 9-12 years of age. Camp participants get to investigate and then write about the larger community around them that they normally wouldn't get to see.

Up until now, the program changed venues annually. Last year, the students and faculty members enjoyed working with us so much, Yankee Air Museum's Education Director **Bette Watson** was asked if they could come back this year.

So again this past July, the kids came back out to our museum, interviewed a number of our members, and wrote about their impressions of us.

They published another book, and copies are available for anyone who wishes to read it.

So far this year, Bette and crew have worked with over 200 hundred kids—some young, and some not-so-young—to build balsa wood *Wright Flyer* gliders.

For many of them, this was probably their first exposure to anything aviation-related. Having observed a couple of these sessions, I can tell you that the kids get a lot out of it, and we make that many more friends for the museum.

As Education Director, Bette has worked very hard to get our name and story out to the local communities and schools, and deserves a lot of thanks for a job well done.

The biggest event of this summer was our 5th Annual Air Display, *Thunder Over Michigan*. From its humble start in 1999 with only a handful of aircraft, the annual Air Display has grown into one of the largest warbird events in the Midwest, if not the nation.

Part of that growth came from the number of participants—over 60 vintage aircraft visited our ramp the weekend of Friday-Sunday 8-10 August 2003.

Another part of that growth was in the number of visitors who came to see the event. While final figures haven't been tabulated, I can tell you that between 20-25% more visitors came through the gate, compared to last year's event.

A third significant portion of growth was the *Air War Over Europe* symposium — dinner was served to over 1,000 people that evening!

Our guests were World War II U.S. aces and test pilots **Bud Anderson** and **Chuck Yeager**, and German ace **Günther Rall**. They shared many of their wartime and post-war experiences for over an hour after dinner.

Much of the credit goes out to event coordinators **Mike Luther**, **Kevin Walsh** and **Paul Draper**. Also playing major roles in coordinating over 100 volunteers were **Don Burke**, **Dan Cojocar**, **Bob Campbell**, **Gayle Roberts-Walker**, **Debbie Stewart**, **Dan Tomczak**, **Bill Tonak** and **Barry Vance**.

The week after our Air Display, we hosted the kickoff party for the 25th Annual *Ypsilanti Heritage Festival*.

Unfortunately, this was also the day that the power went out for 50 million of us! With a little bit of "Yankee Ingenuity" (including hooking up a couple of generators), a small but enthusiastic crowd listened to big band music in the hangar, and enjoyed the evening.

Again, we made some new friends and contacts who could help us out in the future. Kudos go out to event coordinator **Jane Spires**, and to Bob Campbell, Don Burke, and Dan Tomczak for their assistance!

Lastly, I'd like to call your attention to the *Mid-Michigan Division Re-Establishment Plan*, published on pages 8-9 of this issue of *Hangar Happenin's*.

Having never re-established a division before, director **Bill Colwell**, **Ray Hunter** and **Dick Stewart** put this plan together. The goal is to ensure that a viable division can be put back in place, allowing us to move out of the past.

If you'd like to discuss the plan, or anything related to our Museum, please feel free to call me:

(248) 353-3384

or e-mail me:

jon_stevens_77@worldnet.att.net.

UNTIL NEXT MONTH
LET'S KEEP TALKING
AND KEEPING 'EM FLYING !

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July 26, 2003

Dick Bodycombe received this wonderful note of thanks for a summer evening's flyby —

Mary and I can hardly begin to express the depth of our appreciation for the fantastic display you and your *Yankee Air Museum* colleagues provided last Thursday over the Sky Ranch.

As you know, crew chief **Norm Ellickson** called early that night with the message that *Yankee Lady* would have to be grounded because of a mechanical glitch; but later in the night, to our surprise, the old girl appeared in the distant sky as glorious as ever. The technical difficulty had been resolved, and you took the Fortress aloft, arriving above the Sky Ranch at the most propitious time—better even than the time originally scheduled.

We had just concluded our formal tribute to the *USAF Thunderbirds*—all twelve of whose officers were in attendance. Addressing the team's leader, I wished him, from one pilot to another, "Blue skies and tailwinds always!" Then, our guests waving American flags burst into a rendition of *God Bless America*. At that point, the Museum's B-17 swooped in for its dramatic passes, leaving everyone, including the *Thunderbirds*, with lumps in the throat and chills down the back. May I say God bless you and the inimitable *Yankee Lady*.

I am sure that everyone who gazed at that beautiful airplane in all its majesty streak past at just the right moment on an idyllic summer night will remember the experience for years to come. I am forever indebted to you for that poignant flyover as well as the joyous ride—really, the ride of a lifetime—aboard the exalted machine the very next morning.

Thank you so very much for your unparalleled contributions to the cause of aviation, which help to keep alive the dream of flight. May you continue to enjoy many happy hours of flying the old birds, perpetuating them in the environment where they belong—the blue sky above!

Low and slow —
Philip Handleman

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